

ACCEPTANCE OF SMALL BUSINESS CERTIFICATIONS

Ordinance 0424-2003 authorizes the City Manager to take such actions as are necessary and proper to implement modifications to the Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program to ensure maximum participation of small business enterprises in contracting opportunities with the City of Cincinnati for City-funded construction projects of \$100,000.00 or more notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 323 and any other sections of the Cincinnati Municipal Code; by authorizing the City Manager to recognize certifications issued by entities other than the City of Cincinnati; and by establishing the State of Ohio as the geographical boundary for eligibility when accepting the certification of other entities.

A review of acceptable certifications by Hamilton County, Cincinnati Public Schools, and the State of Ohio and in the private sector yielded the following certifications acceptable on a project-by-project basis on City-funded construction projects of \$100,000.00 or more:

- 1) State of Ohio, Department of Administrative Services, Equal Opportunity Division Minority Business Enterprise Certification;
- 2) State of Ohio, Department of Transportation, Office of Transit, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Certification;
- 3) U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Columbus District Office 8(a) Business Development Program Certification; and
- 4) South Central Ohio Minority Business Council, Minority Business Enterprise Certification.

Acceptance of other certification is only applicable on those projects approved by the City Manager. Certifications must be current. Vendors who intend to bid on other City funded-projects as a SBE must become certified by the City of Cincinnati as a SBE. Vendors must have maintained fixed offices located outside the geographical boundaries of Hamilton County, but within the State of Ohio, for at least one year prior to application.

Applications are available on-line click "Doing Business – Small Business Enterprise"